Agenda Date: 7/29/09 Agenda Item: VIIA



## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102 www.nj.gov/bpu/

## CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

FRANCA & JOSEPH HOBBS, Petitioner	) ORDER ADOPTING INITIAL DECISION ) SETTLEMENT
V.	)
PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY	) BPU DOCKET NO. GC06110795U ) OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 1128-07
Respondent	)

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

#### BY THE BOARD:

On November 9, 2006, Franca and Joseph Hobbs ("Petitioner") filed a petition with the Board requesting a formal hearing related to a billing dispute with Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("Respondent") regarding utility service provided to Petitioner's premises in New Providence, New Jersey.

After the filing of Respondent's answer, the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") transmitted this matter to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for hearing and initial disposition as a contested case pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq. and N.J.S.A. 52:14F-1 et seq. This matter was assigned to Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") Irene Jones.

While this matter was pending at the OAL, the parties engaged in negotiations and entered into and a Stipulation of Settlement and Release ("Settlement") that was signed and submitted to the ALJ. By Initial Decision issued on June 16, 2009, and submitted to the Board on June 22, 2009, to which the Settlement was attached and made part thereof, ALJ Jones found that the Settlement was voluntary, that its terms fully disposed of all issues in controversy, and that it satisfied the requirements of N.J.A.C. 1:1-19.1. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement,

Respondent will credit Petitioner's account in the amount of \$5,500.00 and issue a refund check in that amount payable to Petitioner within 20 days for service rendered by Respondent to Petitioner's New Providence premises. In return, Petitioners have agreed to pay all current bills on a timely basis and to release Respondent from any and all claims that might arise in connection with service to that premises.

After review of the Initial Decision and the Agreement between the parties, the Board HEREBY FINDS that, by the terms of the Stipulation of Settlement and Release, the parties have resolved all outstanding contested issues in this matter. Accordingly, the Board HEREBY ADOPTS the Initial Decision and the Stipulation of Settlement and Release executed by the parties in their entirety as if fully set forth herein.

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

FREDERICK F. BUTLER

COMMISSIONER

NICHOLAS ASSELTA

COMMISSIONER

OSEPH L. FIORDALISO COMMISSIONER

**ELIZABE** 

COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public

BPU Docket No. GC06110795U OAL Docket No. PUC1128-07

#### FRANCA & JOSEPH HOBBS

٧.

### PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY

BPU DOCKET NO. GC06110795U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 1128-07

#### SERVICE LIST

Franca & Joseph Hobbs 15 Fenview Road Gillette, New Jersey 07933

Sheree Kelly, Esq.
PSEG Services Corporation
80 Park Plaza – T5G
Newark, New Jersey 07102-4194

Eric Hartsfield, Director
Julie Ford-Williams
Division of Customer Assistance
Board of Public Utilities
Two Gateway Center
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Cynthia Holland, DAG Ashraf Haider Division of Law 124 Halsey Street P.O. Box 45029 Newark, New Jersey 07101 CNS BESLOW RPA



PASKO

State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

1-020-Williams

INITIAL DECISION

SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 1128-07

AGENCY DKT. NO. GC06110795U

FRANCA AND JOSEPH HOBBS,

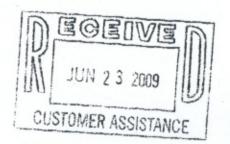
Petitioner,

٧.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC &

GAS,

Respondent.



Franca and Joseph Hobbs, petitioners, pro se

Sheree Kelly, Esq., for respondent, Public Service Electric & Gas

Record Closed: June 15, 2009

Decided: June 16, 2009

BEFORE IRENE JONES, ALJ:

# STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On January 4, 2007, this matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for hearing as a contested case pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 to -15 and N.J.S.A. 52:14F1 to -13. A hearing date was scheduled for July 22, 2008 but adjourned because the parties agreed to settle the matter. The Stipulation of Settlement indicating

the terms of settlement was signed by the parties and forwarded to the OAL on June 15, 2009 and is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

After reviewing the record and the settlement, I FIND:

- The parties have voluntarily agreed to the settlement as evidenced by the signatures or the signatures of the representatives.
- The settlement fully disposes of all issues in controversy and is consistent with the law and is in the public interest.

Therefore, I CONCLUDE that this agreement meets the requirements of N.J.A.C. 1:1-19.1(d) and should be approved. It is further ORDERED that the parties comply with the settlement terms and the proceedings be CONCLUDED.

I hereby FILE my initial decision with the BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES for consideration.

This recommended decision may be adopted, modified or rejected by the BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES, which by law is authorized to make a final decision in this matter. If the Board of Public Utilities does not adopt, modify or reject this decision within forty-five (45) days and unless such time limit is otherwise extended, this recommended decision shall become a final decision in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-10.

IRENE JONES

6/16/06 DATE

Date Received at Agency: 6/22/09

Date Mailed to Parties:

sej

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Franca & Joseph Hobbs, Petitioner

OAL Docket No. PUCCC 01128-2007N BPU Docket No. GC06110795U

v.

Public Service Electric and Gas Company, Respondent STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE

This matter having been brought before the Office of Administrative Law by the Petitioners, Franca & Joseph Hobbs ("Petitioners"), against Respondent Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("PSE&G" or "Respondent") for utility service rendered by PSE&G to the premises at 50 Livingston Avenue, Fl 2, New Providence, NJ and the Parties having agreed to settle this matter, hereby set forth the terms and conditions of their settlement agreement as follows:

- 1. PSE&G will issue a credit adjustment for \$5,500.00, followed by a refund check for \$5,500.000 on Petitioners' account number \$65.21, payable to Petitioners within twenty (20) days, for utility service rendered by PSE&G to the premises at 50 Livingston Avenue, F1 2, New Providence, NJ in full and final settlement of the above-captioned matter.
- Petitioners agree to pay all current bills for account \$255.21 on a timely basis.
- 3. Petitioners forever remise, release and discharge PSE&G and any and all of its employees, agents, directors, shareholders, divisions, subsidiaries, affiliates, predecessors, successors, assigns and those in privity with any and all of the foregoing from any and all claims, demands, agreements, contracts, covenants, representations, warranties, promises, undertakings, damages, debts, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, controversies, damages, judgments, causes of action, suits, dues, sums of money, costs and expenses of each and every kind and nature, whether in contract, tort, or otherwise, whether known or unknown, whether statutory or common law actions, both at law and in equity, including, without limitation, which Petitioners might have or will have against PSE&G in connection with utility services provided to 50 Livingston Avenue, F1 2, New Providence, NJ.

Petitioners: Franca and Joseph Hobbs

By: Franco Wold

By: In 1. /M

Date: 6/26/08

Respondent: PSE&G

By: duand 3.5.11ster (SIA)

Edward B. Sullivan

Manager Customer Operations

Date: 6-12-09





# State of New Jersey OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

33 Washington Street Newark, New Jersey 07102 (973) 648-6008 (973-648-6058)

Robert J. Giordano, ALJ & Manager of Organizational Development COPY

N	0	D	T	T	I
TA	U	1/	1	T	1

JUN 1 7 2009

Re: Initial Decisions for Receipt

We are hereby forwarding to you the following decisions from the office of Administrative Law. Receipt is acknowledged as of the next business day of the date indicated below. Should a listed decision not be included in this batch, please call 973-648-6008.

OAL Docket No. PUC	Case Name
1128-07	Franca + Joseph
	Franca + Joseph Hobbs
	·
	Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, New Jersey 07102
Date: 6/22/09	Board of Public Utilities